

Application Serial No. 10/648,095
Examiner: E.D. Culbreth
Art Unit: 3616

PATENT
M&G No: 13425.0038US01

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the specification as indicated herein. No new matter has been added.

Please amend the respective paragraphs at lines 4-7 and at 17-25 on page 1 as follows:

The present invention relates to a passenger protecting apparatus which inflates and unfurls an airbag like a curtain along side window glasses in a passenger compartment if a vehicle side collision and roll over are detected or foreseen.

A conventional passenger protecting apparatus houses an airbag as folded in a roof side rail to absorb/buffer an impact strength added to a passenger's head, and in the case of detecting a side collision with other another vehicle and the like by a detector, the folded airbag is filled in with gas by an inflator and inflated/unfurled along side ~~widow~~ window glasses in a passenger compartment like a curtain, thereby supporting the passenger's head with the inflated/unfurled airbag, wherein in the case of the vehicle side collision and roll over an impact strength added to the passenger's head is intended to be absorbed and buffered (refer to Japan patent publication 2920291).

Please amend the respective paragraphs at lines 4-7 and at 13-15 on page 2 as follows:

However, this structure causes a dropped bolt from a fastening position to enter in a gap in some occasions when fastening the airbag to a vehicle body because a through-hole through which a bolt fastens the airbag to the body is positioned above the folded air bag.

Therefore, the conventional passenger protecting apparatus has a problem that it takes labor hours to attach the airbag to the vehicle body, and thereby the airbag being not able to cannot be efficiently attached to the body.

Please amend the respective paragraphs at lines 7-19 on page 3 as follows:

According to the structure, because a fastening position of the airbag to the vehicle body is positioned below the airbag housed in the vehicle in the folded situation, a bolt dropped from the fastening position can be avoided from entering in a gap between the airbag and body when

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fastening the airbag to the body using a fitting such as a bolt, and thereby being able it can be made to prevent long time in a series of work to attach/fasten the airbag to the body from being needed.

Moreover, the fastening position of the airbag to the vehicle body can make a work position for a worker fastening the airbag in the vehicle compartment higher lower, so an elevation angle in fastening the airbag with a bolt can be smaller, and thereby a worker's burden being able to can be reduced. Therefore, the passenger protecting apparatus enables an efficiency of the attaching work to the vehicle body to be improved.

Please add the paragraph after line 4 on page 4 at the end of the Brief Description of the Drawings as follows:

FIG. 5 is a drawing illustrating one embodiment of a rivet in accordance with the principles of the present invention.

Please amend the paragraph at line 20, page 4 to line 2, page 5 as follows:

The airbag 3 to absorb and buffer the impact force added to a passenger in the side collision and roll over is inflated by gas being filled inside with the inflator 4, and thereby, as shown in FIG. 1, being the airbag 3 is designed to inflate and unfurl like a curtain from an upside toward a downside of vehicle side window glasses in a vehicle compartment. The airbag 3 is a bag formed by seaming cloth made of nylon, and as shown in FIGS. 2 and 3, a rectangular and tongue-like attachment piece 31 is protrusively formed along an upper brim of the airbag 3 at a predetermined distance. Attachment holes are drilled at an approximate center of each attachment piece.

Please amend paragraphs at lines 8-20 on page 5 as follows:

As shown in FIG. 3, one main face of attachment piece 31 of the airbag 3 and that of an upper end 5a of the bracket 5 accord and another main face of lower end 5b of the bracket 5 is are combined in an exposed situation below the folded airbag 3, whereby the airbag 3 and bracket 5 are unified with both being fastened with a bolt and nut through an attachment hole 32 formed in the attachment piece 31 and through-hole 51 at the upper end 5a of the bracket 5.

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Then, the unified airbag 3 and bracket 5 are attached to a vehicle pillar panel A5 by both being fastened with the bolt and nut through the through-hole 52 at the lower end 5b of the bracket 5 and a fix hole A51A of the vehicle pillar inner panel A5.

In the passenger protecting apparatus composed as such, as shown in FIG. 3, the airbag 3 is normally folded like a cornice approximately from an upside to downside direction and housed in a roof side rail A2A like a long scale.

Please amend paragraphs at lines 1-20 of page 7 as follows:

Moreover, for a worker fastening the airbag 3 in a vehicle compartment, a working position becomes higher lower when fastening the airbag 3 to the vehicle, so an elevation angle in fastening the airbag 3 with a bolt can be smaller, and thereby a worker's burden being able to can be reduced. Therefore, the passenger protecting apparatus 1 enables an efficiency of attaching work to the vehicle to be improved.

Meanwhile, a passenger protecting apparatus of the invention is not limited to the passenger protecting apparatus 1 and there exists no problem in changing as needed as far as requirements of the invention are not deviated. For example, the bracket 5 to attach the airbag 3 to the vehicle pillar inner panel A5 can be prevented from bending due to the weight of the airbag 3 if the bracket 5 is composed so as to have a rib, flange, and/or bead formed along the upper end 5Aa to lower end 5b.

Moreover, a structure provided with a protruded portion at one end 5a as well as a fitted fit-in hole formed to be able to fit in a protruded portion at the vehicle pillar inner panel A5 enables the bracket 5 to be firmly attached to the vehicle and, in addition, to be prevented from bending due to the weight of the airbag 3. Furthermore, a structure providing the bracket 5 with a temporary fixing clip of the airbag 3 supplied to the vehicle body becomes easy to be fastened and its strength is increased.

Please amend the paragraph at lines 2- 8 of page 8 as follows:

In the embodiment, a case is described, in which work procedures to attach the airbag 3 to the vehicle pillar inner panel A5 is to unify the airbag 3 and bracket 5 by attaching the former to the latter and then to attach the airbag 3 to the inner panel A5A, thereby attaching the airbag 3

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to the inner panel A5A. However, unifying work of the airbag 3 and inner panel A5A is not always needed in attaching the airbag 3 to the vehicle, so they may also be unified in advance.